

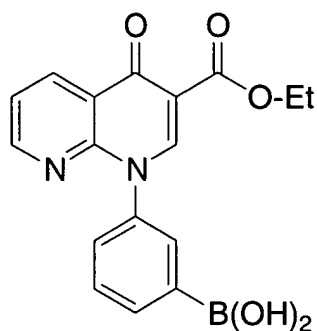
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

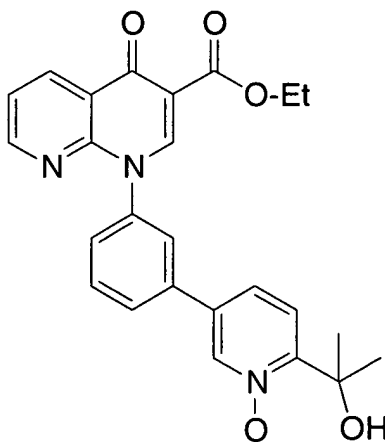
Listing of the Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the compound of formula Va is



and the compound of Formula VIII is



Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second ~~salt~~ base is a carbonate base.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the phosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of $P(C_{1-6}alkyl)_3$, such as $P(t-butyl)_3$, $P(Cy)_3$, and $P(t-butyl)_2(biphenyl)$.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the palladium catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $P(t-butyl)_3-Pd-P(t-butyl)_3$, $[PdCl(allyl)]_2$, $Pd_2(dba)_3$, and $[P(t-butyl)_3PdBr]_2$ (Johnson-Matthey catalyst).

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the second base is selected from sodium or potassium carbonate and sodium or potassium phosphate.

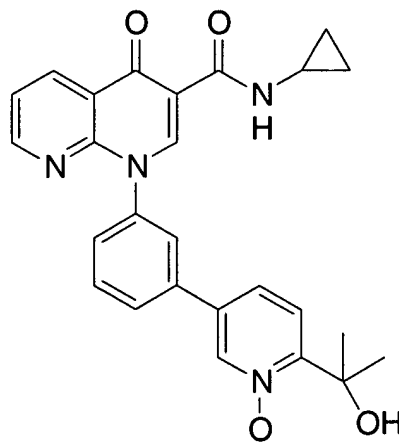
Claims 7 to 9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the activating agent is selected from carbonyl diimidazole and 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

Claims 11 to 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (Previously presented) A method of preparing a compound of Formula

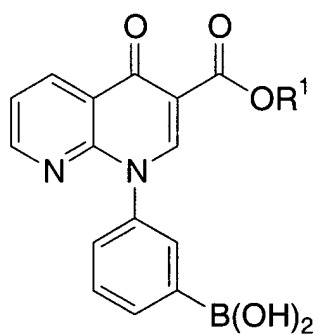
IX



IX

Or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, comprising

Step C: reacting, in solvent A, a compound of Formula Va

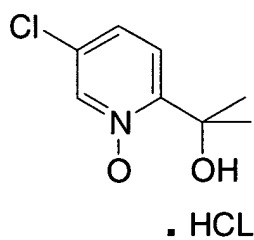


Va

wherein

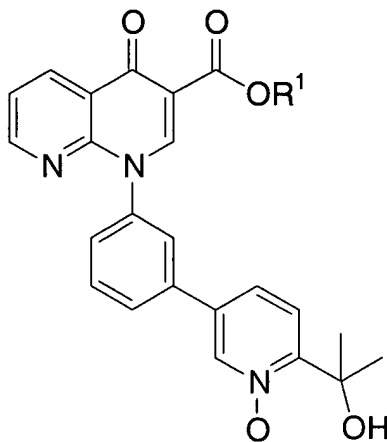
-OR¹ is a suitable leaving group; and

solvent A is selected from the group consisting of dimethylacetamide, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, DMSO, methylacetamide, ethers or mixtures thereof; with a compound of Formula VII



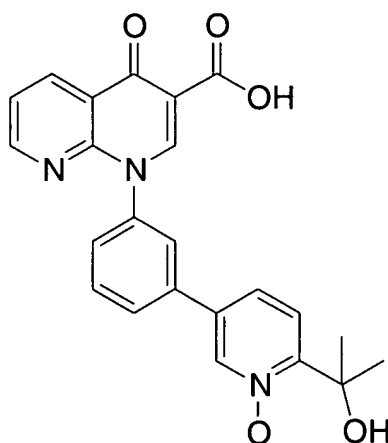
VII

or free base thereof, in the presence of a palladium catalyst and a phosphine ligand and a second base to yield a compound of Formula VIII



VIII

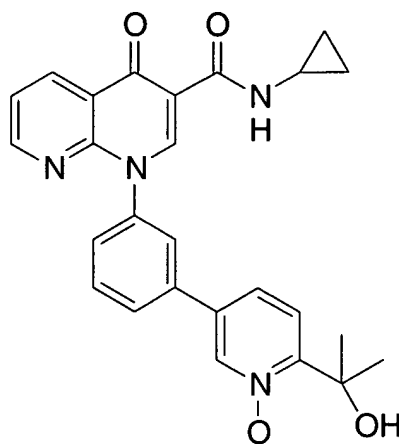
Step D: reacting, in water a compound of Formula VIII with sodium or potassium hydroxide to yield a compound of Formula VIIIa



VIIIa

and

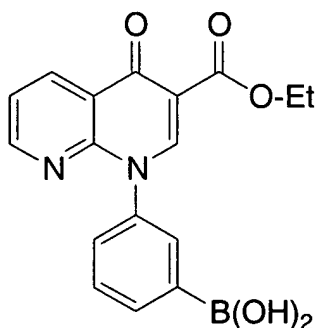
Step E: reacting, in solvent B, a compound of Formula VIIIa with cyclopropylamine in the presence of an activating agent to yield a compound of Formula IX.



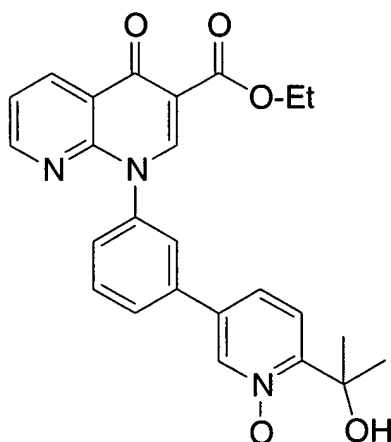
IX

wherein solvent B is selected from the group consisting of dimethylaminoacetamide, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, DMSO, methylacetamide, dichloromethane, ethers or mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the compound of formula Va is



and the compound of Formula VIII is



the second base salt is a carbonate base,

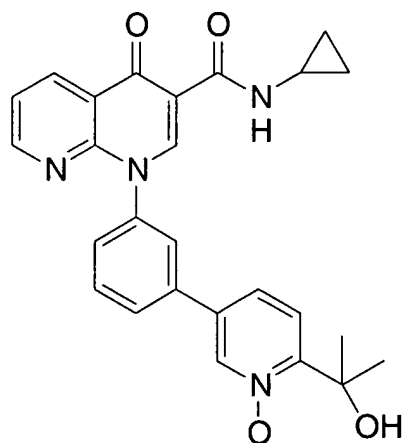
the phosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of $P(C_{1-6}alkyl)_3$, such as $P(t-butyl)_3$, $P(Cy)_3$, and $P(t-butyl)_2(biphenyl)$,

the palladium catalyst is selected from the group consisting of $P(t-butyl)_3Pd-P(t-butyl)_3$, $[PdCl(allyl)]_2$, $Pd_2(dba)_3$, and $[P(t-butyl)_3PdBr]_2$ (Johnson-Matthey catalyst),

the second base is selected from sodium or potassium carbonate and sodium or potassium phosphate, and

the activating agent is selected from carbonyl diimidazole and 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

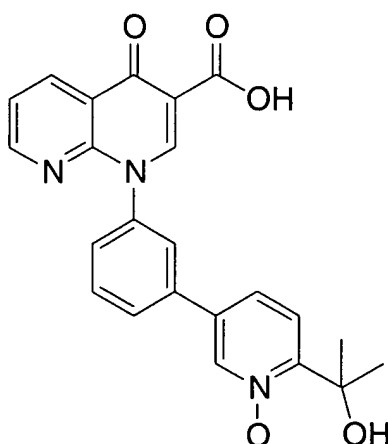
16. (Previously presented) A method of preparing a compound of Formula IX



IX

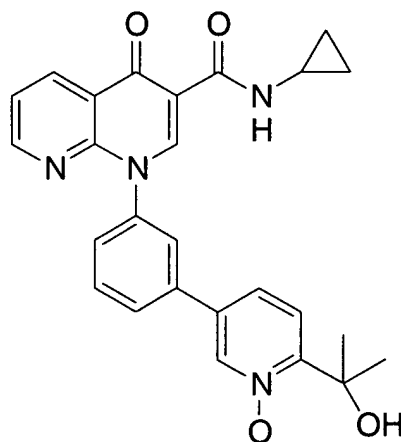
Comprising

Step E: reacting, in solvent B, a compound of Formula VIIIa



VIIIa

with cyclopropylamine in the presence of an activating agent to yield a compound of Formula IX



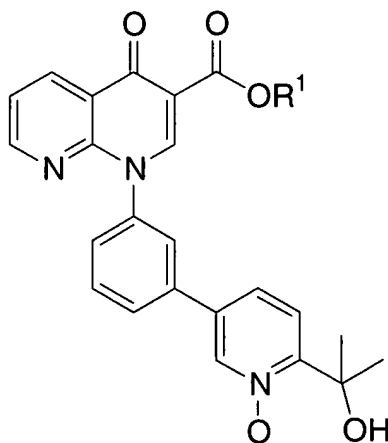
IX

wherein solvent B is selected from the group consisting of dimethylaminoacetamide, dimethylformamide, acetonitrile, DMSO, methylacetamide, dichloromethane, ethers or mixtures thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 16 wherein the activating agent is selected from carbonyl diimidazole and 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

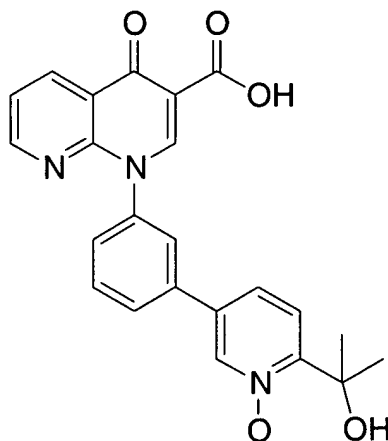
18. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 16 further comprising

Step D: reacting, in water a compound of Formula VIII



VIII

with sodium or potassium hydroxide to yield a compound of Formula VIIIa.



VIIIa

19. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 18 wherein the activating agent is selected from carbonyl diimidazole and 1-(3-Dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride.

20. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 18 wherein reaction step D and reaction Step E are carried out without purification or isolation of the product of Step D prior to proceeding with Step E.